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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The third meeting of the Cominform representative and the pro-Communist Portuguese leaders took place on 28 November 1948, and was attended by the same people. The Cominform representative spoke as follows:
2. "Portuguese comrades, it is with great pleasure that I see that you have put aside, temporarily at least, your divergences in order to unite in the struggle against the common enemy. I, as a representative of the Cominform, can solemnly promise you that the question of your differences will be presented, with due regard to the position of each, to the Cominform by me, and I feel certain that the organization which I represent here will give it due attention. However, I feel that more satisfactory results would be obtained if each of the organizations represented here would send a report to the Cominform expressing clearly and exactly the points at issue to which no permanent solution has been found. For my part I shall prepare things at the Cominform so that that organization will be ready to receive a representative of each in case your reports are not sufficient for a solution of your case.
3. "Portuguese comrades, now that you are again united and ready for the struggle I can speak to you more frankly. At the first meeting I paid the greatest attention to the statements of the comrade who explained the financial situation of your organizations, and on this point I can tell you that I have full powers from the Cominform to assure you all the financial assistance you need, and, consequently, I can tell you that the first payment from this subsidy will be delivered to you here in Lisbon by a body (entidade) which will be named at the proper time. As soon as you have appointed your joint strike committee this first amount will be negotiated between that committee and the body referred to.
4. "The Cominform has the greatest interest in seeing that the strikes which are to start in the main Portuguese industries, especially the harbors, should be carried out with the greatest efficiency, because happenings on a worldwide scale are closely integrated with this movement."
5. Jose de Sousa COELHO then spoke as follows:

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- 2 -

6. "Comrade representative of the Cominform, I have closely followed your words, with which I am in complete accord. However, so far as I am concerned I must inform you that my organization is not in a position to rush into a strike this coming January, since, as I have already told you in private, we have to interest the socialist organization in the strikes, and that takes time. Then, we have to prepare the groundwork for the strikes, and that too takes time and money. We cannot even start without money. To prepare for a strike, propaganda must be spread about, in the form of manifestoes, circulars, etc., and we have not the money to get started at this; I believe other organizations are in the same situation." (There was a brief interruption here, during which the representatives of the other organizations agreed that their condition was such.) "I think that, to be in a situation to start strikes, with some hope of success, we must wait until the end of March or the early part of April."
7. The others present showed complete agreement with the views expressed by COELHO. Then the Cominform representative spoke again, as follows:
8. "I have no alternative but to agree with the statements of Jose de Sousa COELHO, which are, after all, those approved by the rest of the representatives here. We had the greatest hopes that the strikes could be started in January, but, in the face of the difficulties which are now apparent, and the possibility of failure, we prefer to wait: this is one of our greatest talents. So, comrades, as soon as I arrive at headquarters, orders for payment of the first amount will be sent to you; also a new way of communication will be sent, to be used only in case of failure of the one now in use."

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